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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 20 | Humidity 83% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 65,688 | Nifty 19,543 | Gold 59,670 | Silver 73,000 | Dollar 82.71 | Euro 91.24 | GBP 105.44

Angry cabbie

CITY PAGE 5

As instances of aggression among cab drivers emerge, association asks for impartial probe into incidents

Stuck record

CITY PAGE 7

Yet another lake rejuvenation has stopped mid-way; result is debris and garbage strewn around at Hosakerehalli

Women passengers of Metro say during peak hours, crowding of compartments make it difficult for them to avoid uncomfortable interactions; request more trains or proper signages warning culprits

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE CREEPY KIND

BMRCL has put in place measures such as CCTV cams, woman-centric security staff

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The sight of a crowded metro coach, especially during peak hours, is not uncommon in Bengaluru. Women commuters of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) say that often, it is uncomfortable to use the metro services during peak hours as the crowd increases their fear of inappropriate behaviour from a fellow co-passenger taking place. They have suggested that the BMRCL increase the frequency of their services so as to disperse the crowd as much as possible.

Chief Public Relations Officer (PRO) of BMRCL, Yashwanth Chavan, said that the BMRCL has taken a number of measures to ensure the safety of women, inside the coaches as well as outside on the platforms. He noted that while two coaches have been designated only for women, each coach has four CCTV cameras that are monitored by the train operator. Along with this, coaches possess passenger emergency alarm handles which can be used to make immediate contact with the train operator in case of any exigency. He said that over 80% of the security staff deployed are female. "The security guards team that moves around through running metro trains comprise a large percentage of women staff. A designated lady home guard is mandated to be present in the ladies coach from 10 pm until the end of revenue services. Even on platforms, most security staff are women and a guard is deployed to patrol areas that are not often paid attention to," he explained.

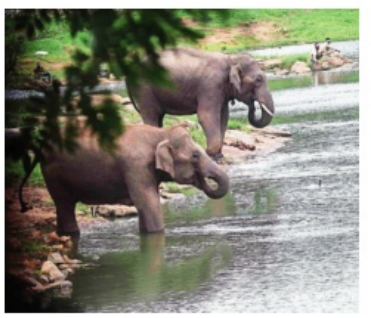
An IT employee who wished to remain anonymous told Bangalore Mirror that she

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

Metro trains can get especially crowded during peak hours in Bengaluru

> **"There must be a facility to report sexual harassment to the police from the metro station itself so that the women can get off at the earliest and report the incident**
>
> —Tara Krishnaswamy, co-founder of Political Shakti

Fence eating the crop?



As study points to rise in crop, livestock damage around BNP, park officials say barricades are effective

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Researchers from the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) in Madhya Pradesh have highlighted that incidences of crop damage, livestock loss, and loss of human life have increased in and around Bannerghatta National Park (BNP). BNP officials, on their part, maintained that no permission was sought by IIFM to carry out the study inside the park.

A survey-based study conducted across 12 villages in and around the park, also indicates that human-wildlife conflict cases have not only forced farmers to change their cropping pattern but have also led to a drop in native cattle breeds in the area.

Researchers have linked these issues to an increase in forest area and quality as the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) is actively undertaking plantations and reclaiming encroached lands.

"When probed about trends in the status of the forests, 37% and 29% of the respondents from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Jewellery show

Don't miss out on the chance to visit one of the most anticipated Asia Jewels Show 2023, happening today. The fine jewellery exhibition dazzles the city with its festive special edition of Varamahalakshmi. Witness India's best jewellery designs and brands under one roof.
Where: The Ritz-Carlton; When: Today; 12 noon

02 Best of plays

Grab the chance to attend the staging of TP Kailasam's plays 'Home Rule' and 'Kailasam Jhalak'. Kailasam was one of the most prominent writers in Kannada and is known as one of the greatest playwrights. The play is being presented by Antharanga, a popular theatre group.
Where: Wadia Hall, Indian Institute of World Culture, BP Wadia Hall, Basavanagudi
When: August 12; 7 pm

03 Fashion statement

Hi Life Exhibition is ready to sweep you off your feet with the most trending fashion collection. Get your hands on gorgeous designer wear, wedding ensembles for the brides-to-be, ethnic designs for her bandwagon, to every day fashion apparels, accessories, jewellery and even fashion statements for your home. **Where: The Lalit Ashok**
When: until August 13; 10 am to 8 pm

Skin deep generosity

Skin donation in Karnataka sees surge with each passing year; however, health professionals point out that supply has not been meeting demand

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After covid 19, skin donations in Karnataka saw a significant increase. The skin donations started in June 2016, and since then, there have been 196 skin donations. While the number of donations is getting better each year, the health professionals handling the skin bank at Victoria Hospital pointed out that the supply has not been meeting the demand.

The skin bank at Victoria Hospital is Karnataka's first skin bank that was set up in association with Rotary Ashirvad. In 2020–2023, there have been 78 skin donations. During the pandemic in 2020, the skin donations were zero; the next year, they increased to 18, and in 2022, the skin donations increased to 40. Currently, as of August 2023, the number of skin donations is 20, and the number is expected to increase in the coming months.

According to the Jeevasarthakathe, the state body working on cadaver organs, the number of kidney, liver, and heart donations is much higher than the number of skin donations.

Senior nursing officer Nagaraj BN, coordinator at the Skin Bank, said, "While the numbers of skin donations have shown an increase over the years, it does not meet the demand. When we compare other organ donations to the skin, the skin has fewer donations. Many agree with donating eyes or other organs, but they are not comfortable with skin donations as they think it will disfigure their body.

As of August 2023, the number of skin donations is 20; Rotary Ashirvad BMCRI Skin Bank (right pic)

Skin donations	Beneficiaries who got skin	Contacts for skin donation
2020 (after covid) - 0	2020 (after covid) - 5	99642 53974
2021 - 18	2021 - 11	08026703633
2022 - 40	2022 - 36	8277576147
2023 - 20	2023 - 38	
Total - 78	Total - 90	

But that is not the case. In order to raise awareness about skin donation, we have been reaching out to colleges and schools. We get requests from all over the state, and most of it goes to the Mahabodhi Burns Ward in Victoria Hospital, where many cases come in with serious burn injuries. "

According to Nagaraj, only 0.3 mm of skin is harvested from the thighs and legs of the deceased body, which is like the size of a thin paper sheet. "After the skin is harvested, proper bandaging is done, and there is no disfigurement or bleeding of the body. The donated skin will be used for skin grafting for the burn victims, which will help in speedy recovery and prevent death," explained Nagaraj.

Individuals over 18 years of age are eligible for skin donations within six hours of death.

"Compared to other organ donations, skin has fewer donors. We have reached out to colleges to raise awareness –Nagaraj BN

The individuals need to be free from HIV, HCV, HbsAG, and skin cancer to donate the skin. The skin recovery team will reach the donor place at the earliest after receiving a call from the donor's family. Currently, the skin bank at Victoria Hospital has 15,000 sq cm of skin storage. Nagaraj added, "Skin donation significantly enhances the quality of life for survivors of burns." Unlike other organs, which have a shorter time limit for transplantation, the skin can be stored for up to three to five years if the storage protocol is followed correctly.

BNP says all measures in place to prevent conflict

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

villages inside the park boundaries and eco-sensitive zone villages, respectively, indicated that human–wildlife conflict and incidences of crop damage, livestock loss, and loss of human life have increased," said the report.

Farmers from over 100 villages in and around the park were interviewed and a majority of them underlined that there has been a shift in cropping patterns in the area mainly due to crop damage from wildlife.

While finger millet, red gram and maize, and coconut were the main crops that were harmed making them unpopular, farmers have now shifted to growing either mulberry or fruits and vegetables. Commercial viability, better water supply, road transport, and accessibility to the cocoon market in Ramanagara and other urban markets in Bengaluru are some other factors that nudged farmers to change their crops.

The study further highlights that total livestock ownership has also gone down in the villages mainly due to the lack of gomala land. Gomala lands have reduced in both area and access, owing to diversion for agriculture, housing, etc, or even inclusion in forest areas. Notably, KFD has declared livestock grazing along with forest encroachment, smuggling, fires, etc, as restricted activities to promote natural regeneration in forests.

"Local cattle breeds have become rare, as high-yielding hybrid cows are preferred to cater to the ever-increasing milk demands of Bengaluru. Exotic breeds reduce the burden of grazing as they can be comfortably stall-fed but are quite expensive to maintain and often face high disease risk. Losing hybrid cattle to wildlife depredation proves expensive, turning people hostile toward conservation efforts, which is an instance of conflict between urbanization and conservation," noted the report.

BNP refutes

However, BNP officials have refused to acknowledge the research as the IIFM hadn't sought its permission to carry out the study inside BNP.

"For anyone to conduct a study or research work inside the park, special permission has to be taken from the department. No such permission was sought for this research work. In the absence of a study, the claim of an increase in human-wildlife incidents in and around BNP holds no ground. IIFM should have taken permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden," said an official from KFD.

According to Prabhakar Priyadarshi, Deputy Conservator of Forest, BNP, the on-ground staff has been on its toes to keep elephants away from agricultural fields. Moreover, various management techniques and fencing options are being implemented to alleviate unfavourable interactions between villagers and wildlife.

"Our strategy remains to establish effective barricades all around the park to prevent the elephants from coming out of the forest. In case they venture out, we ensure they are driven back inside as soon as possible. BNP is safeguarded with more than 30 km of railway barricade and over 100 km of various types of solar fencing. We also have elephant-proof trenches," said Priyadarshi.

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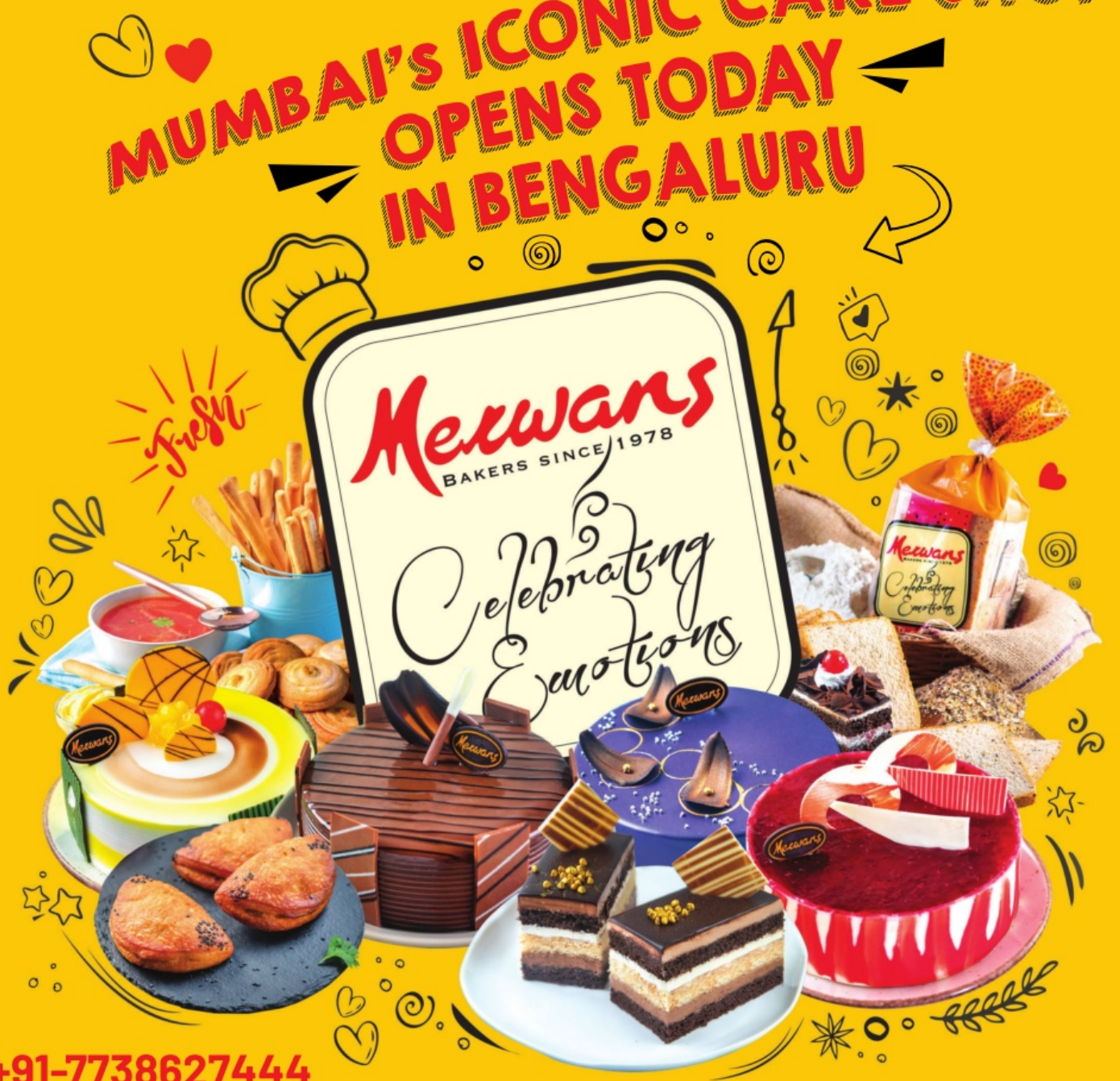

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DARK AND DEEP DOWN

Ripples of hope: reviving Bengaluru's waterscape

Experts want steep fines for illegal borewells in Bengaluru

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In a unanimous stance, city water experts are calling for decisive action, an end to 'illegal' borewell drilling and a twofold increase in penalties for unauthorised borewell drilling.

In a city like Bengaluru, the scenario is concerning, with hundreds of borewells being drilled daily. Currently, there exists scant regulation to control this rampant borewell drilling. During a recent meeting of experts convened to discuss water concerns in the city as part of the Brand Bengaluru dialogue, participants stressed the urgent need to curtail borewell drilling.

This practice is depleting the city's invaluable underground water table. The depletion is starkly evident in various areas where borewells, even at depths of 1,500 feet, yield no water. This scarcity has fuelled a competitive race to dig deeper and deeper, resulting in the unsustainable extraction of this precious water resource.

During a discussion on Thursday, a water expert said, "Bengaluru predominantly relies on Cauvery water supply, which calls for the exploration of alternative water systems. The deployment of real-time online water quality monitoring stations is facilitating the provision of high-quality water. There is a need for efficient management of sewage flow from internal drains by ensuring proper purification before discharge into lakes, thereby safeguarding the purity of water that flows into Rajakaluves.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Hundreds of borewells are being drilled daily, depleting the city's invaluable underground water table

The installation of recharge pits is imperative to revitalise groundwater levels. It's essential to adopt methods for recycling treated wastewater to conserve fresh water. Consequently, regulating borewells and fostering awareness against excessive groundwater extraction is pivotal to promoting responsible water consumption."

Another expert said, "Bengaluru was once adorned with lakes, conceived by the city's founders who recognised the absence of a perennial water source and consequently constructed these lakes.

Many of these water bodies served as the sole drinking water source. However, as the city burgeoned, the lakes dwindled and became contaminated. Thus, there's an imperative to harness city lakes as a water resource. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) must adopt measures to minimise water leakage. Mandating sewage treatment plant (STP) construction in apartment complexes is essential.

Regulating borewells and fostering awareness against excessive groundwater extraction is pivotal for responsible water consumption

Concurrently, encouraging water purification and the reuse of treated water among citizens should be prioritised. Additionally, meticulous maintenance of internal drainage systems is crucial. Collectively, these endeavours pave the way toward a more sustainable and secure water future for Bengaluru."

Contaminated borewells alarm Yarandahalli residents

Villagers have to rely on private tankers or Cauvery water supply, which is irregular

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Residents of Yarandahalli village near Electronic City are grappling with a potential and concerning issue. The water sourced from borewells in their vicinity is displaying signs of heavy metal and chemical contamination. Many residents have reported that these borewells have become unsuitable for drinking or any other purpose due to the strong chemical odour and a peculiar taste.

"I had a borewell dug in 2011, and we used its water for drinking purposes for several years. However, sometime back, the water started to smell like chemicals. While the colour has not changed, the smell is strong and we have stopped using it for any purpose," said Puneeth, a resident of Yarandahalli village.

This predicament seems to have arisen around two years ago, with multiple borewells in the village now being affected by contamination.

"The water contamination started a couple of years ago and many borewells in the area are contaminated. Multiple households in the village now depend either on private tankers or Cauvery water supply which is irregular," said Shilpa, another resident.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Villagers say they have no other option but to rely on private tankers which burn holes in their pockets.

"A single tanker of water costs us Rs 1,100, and we are expending a lot of money on potable water. Even after filtration, the chemical smell and taste linger. Both of our borewells have fallen victim to contamination. While we generally avoid using the borewells, on days when there is a shortage of water tankers, we are left with no alternative but to employ them for bathing. Although the problem has persisted for some time and is known to all, including Panchayat officials, no steps have been taken to investigate the root cause of the contamination," said another resident of Yarandahalli.

Locals have raised allegations against a pharmaceutical company operating in the vicinity. They claim that the company has been illicitly discharging effluents into Yarandahalli Lake, thereby tainting the groundwater and consequently affecting the borewells.

"We conducted an inquiry when the issue initially surfaced a couple of years ago. We witnessed security personnel from the company utilising a fire hose to establish a connection with the nearest stormwater drain for effluent discharge. This was a routine occurrence. To address this, we documented the situation and shared it on social media platforms, tagging the company's founder. The moment this was done, they covered the drains. However, the contamination had already happened by then," said a resident from a nearby layout.

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Road disruption
Hulimavu

Residents of 1st cross Pai Layout in Hulimavu are facing inconvenience as BBMP has dug up the road without proper notification.

Traffic gridlock
Banashankari

Encroachment on the footpath at 45th cross road, near Banashankari bus station, has forced pedestrians to walk on the road, resulting in traffic jams.

Installation pause
Basaveshwara Nagar

A large valley was dug by BBMP to install a new pipeline in Chowdeshwari Nagar, Basaveshwara Nagar. However, the work has now come to a standstill, posing a risk of mud collapsing and accidents.

Edgy cab rides as tempers soar on city's roads

Man claims his wife, son were struck by driver; association says action must be taken after thorough probe in cases of alleged violence

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After a series of instances of aggression by cab drivers, the city is on the edge. Close on the heels of a pregnant woman being assaulted, on Wednesday, another incident came to light.

It is alleged that an Uber driver assaulted a woman and her son for boarding the wrong cab. A cab driver has been reported to the police for attacking the mother and son. The event came to light after a citizen, Ajay Agrawal, posted on social media about the terrifying experience his wife and son had to go through at Bhoganahalli.

Agrawal alleged that his wife and son were attacked in front of an apartment complex by the cab driver.

He claimed in the post that other people who were outside had to intervene and that saved his wife and son. He stated that his wife had reserved a taxi to take their son to a hospital. When the cab arrived at 11:05 am, they allegedly discovered they were in the incorrect vehicle and told the driver as soon as they were seated.

This, according to Agrawal, infuriated the driver, who then tried to leave though his wife insisted on getting out.

The driver allegedly began ranting after which he repeatedly struck the complainant's wife on the head. The driver allegedly attacked their son when he attempted to stop the vehicle. Vigilant locals stopped the driver. According to Agrawal, the incident was recorded on a security camera and reported to the police and a formal complaint was given.

Uber responded to the post claiming that necessary action has been taken, but it did not specify what that action was. The Bellandur police have taken the cab driver into custody. According to the driver, the woman yelled at him for parking the car 100 metres away from her. He further stated that the woman had assaulted him and slammed the car door as she exited.

Just a week back, the police had detained a cab driver after learning that he had allegedly sexually assaulted a pregnant woman in public.

Tanveer Pasha, president of cab aggregators drivers' association, agreed that in recent months there have been a few serious cases against cab drivers but he added that many of them had later turned out to be fake cases.

"We have always told our drivers to be respectful towards the passengers and never engage in any fight. There are cases where people would get drunk in the cab and start abusing the drivers, and later in the morning they would give a false complaint putting all the blame on the driver. There should be proper investigation of cases. The police should make sure that both sides are properly heard and whoever is guilty should be punished. If the cab driver is at fault, punish them, but only after proper investigation," he said.

He added that all cab drivers have been advised to not manhandle anyone, but rather call 112 if they observe that the customer is being problematic.

Life's a gamble, friends are foes

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A 32-year-old roadside tea vendor from Bengaluru was ecstatic on August 1 after winning a massive Rs 25 lakh from a Goa casino. His happiness, however, was short-lived since, according to what he told the police, he was allegedly abducted by friends who stole Rs 15 lakh from his bank account a few days later.

The tea vendor was named by the police as Tilak M Manikanta, a resident of Thyagarajanagar. The police added that a case had been opened at the Hanumanthanagar police station on a number of counts, including kidnapping, extortion, and criminal intimidation.

Manikanta travelled to Goa with his buddies on July 30 and brought Rs 4 lakh with him, according to the police. Manikanta won Rs 25 lakh on August 1 at the Majestic Pride casino in Panaji. The money was sent to Manikanta's bank account, and he kept the information from his buddies, according to the authorities.

On August 5, a day after he arrived in Bengaluru, Manikanta was standing by a shop smoking when his pals Karthik, Pandu, Eshwar, Nishchal, and others approached him and invited him to join them, according to Manikanta's police complaint. When he requested that they wait, they allegedly put him into a car, drove him to a remote area of Bangalore University and used mobile banking to transfer Rs 15 lakh from his bank account to their bank accounts.

On August 6, the man filed a complaint and now police are tracing the accused.

Phone-snatching video goes viral

A video of a cell-phone snatching incident at Min Bazaar neighbourhood that is close to the Banaswadi railway station on Tuesday has gone viral. The CCTV camera nearby captured the incident. Two bike-riding men snatched a woman's phone at a busy crossing.

The police team responded to the video when it came to their notice and said that the incident is being probed. In response to the video, they tweeted, "We informed Banaswadi IPS for necessary action."

In footage it is a woman is seen waiting for a cab or ostensibly crossing a street when a bike comes up behind her and the people on it grab her phone, and they depart. Just as the woman is chasing the bike, the video cuts off without revealing if she was able to catch them and retrieve her phone. — BMB

Truck crushes 2 kids to death in Ramanagara

HDK demands strict action against rash drivers

After two children were crushed to death by a goods truck in Gollaradoddi village in Ramanagara district, JD (S) leader HD Kumaraswamy on Thursday expressed shock over the incident and demanded action against rash drivers. Five-year-old Rohith and eight-year-old Shalini, who were returning home after tuition, were mowed down by the truck on Wednesday. Three other children, who were going in a group, sustained serious injuries and are being treated in hospital.

Kumarswamy stated that, "The incident of two children being killed due to negligent and rash driving by the goods vehicle driver has shocked and pained me. The incident had taken place due to the negligence of the driver. I convey my heartfelt condolences to the children who lost their lives in the incident. Let the god give strength to the families to withstand the bereavement of their children. I pray for speedy recovery of injured children Suchith, Gowthami and Lekhana, who are being treated." — IANS

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Vibhutipura Lake: No weed, no hyacinths, all clean

BBMP assures reconstruction of STP and restoration of the walking path

From slushy to clean pathways. BBMP frees the lake from weeds and hyacinth

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Once upon a time, Vibhutipura Lake was full of weeds and a breeding place for mosquitoes. Now, the water body has been cleaned and restored to its former glory. The residents of Vibhuthipura and surrounding areas who visit the lake for morning and evening walks are very happy with the removal of hyacinths from the lake.

A year ago, this very lake was a subject of concern, with its overgrown weeds dominating the landscape. On August 21, 2022, Bangalore Mirror published an article "Lake's Sake," which highlighted the alarming state of the lake. The report highlighted how the BBMP Lakes Department's lack of supervision or inspection of the rejuvenated lake had an adverse impact on the water body. The lake was rejuvenated at an estimated cost of Rs 3 crore four years ago.

The residents want the authorities to complete the construction of the sewage treatment plant (STP) to prevent dirty sewage water from entering the lake. They said the water body is free from hyacinth and other weeds but the water in the lake is not clean.

"I want to thank and appreciate the BBMP Lakes Department for removing weeds from the lake. The lake was full of weeds a year ago and it was difficult for people to walk on the pathway which becomes slushy whenever it rains," said Krishna Prasad, a resident of Vibhuthipura.

Demanding the BBMP Lakes Department to take measures to preserve the lake, Basavaraj N, a resident of Ramesh Nagar, said the need of the hour is to prevent sewage and dirty water from entering the lake. "I want the BBMP Lakes Department to engage workers to remove hyacinths and weeds from the lake. The Lakes Department authorities have to visit the lake once a week to know the condition of the lake," said Basavaraj.

> **"I want to thank and appreciate the BBMP Lakes Department for removing weeds from the lake and creating an easy pathway for walkers**
>
> –Krishna Prasad, a resident of Vibhuthipura.

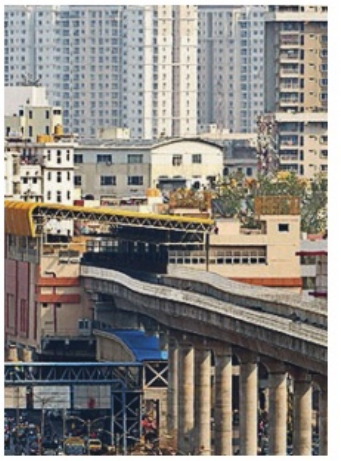
Amidst the positive developments, there are lingering concerns. Some walkers expressed disappointment over the delay in repairing the walkway on the southern side of the lake. They pointed out that the northern walkway is uneven and unsafe for senior citizens. "I want the BBMP Lakes Department to complete all the pending work as early as possible. Once amenities like toilets that are locked for a quite long time are unlocked, the lake will be a destination for the residents from surrounding areas," said Imran Khan, a resident.

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) Bhuprada has said the walking path will be restored after the completion of the STP's construction. "If it is restored, the movement of heavy vehicles which bring heavy machines to the STP will damage the walking path. We managed to remove the weeds from the lake with the funds available for the maintenance of the lake. It took three months to make the lake hyacinth free," said the Executive Engineer.

R Narayanaswamy, the contractor, has said that he had engaged around 20 workers every day for more than three months to remove the weeds from the lake. "I have instructed the workers to cooperate with walkers if the latter complaint arises about weeds or garbage in the lake. The workers will immediately remove garbage and weeds," said Narayanaswamy.

Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, appealed to the BBMP Lakes Department to maintain all lakes at par with Vibhutipura Lake.

Warning: Sexual harassment is punishable



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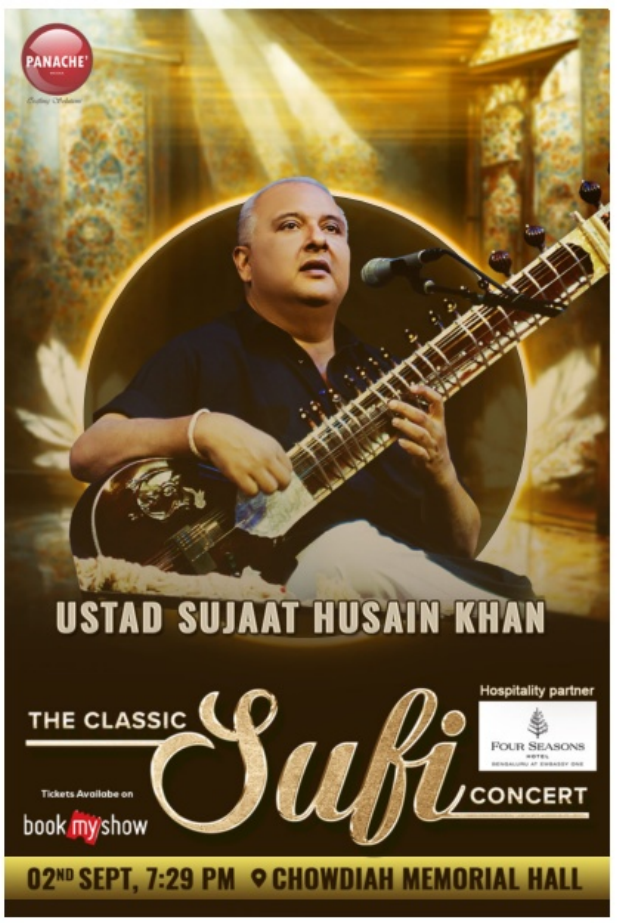
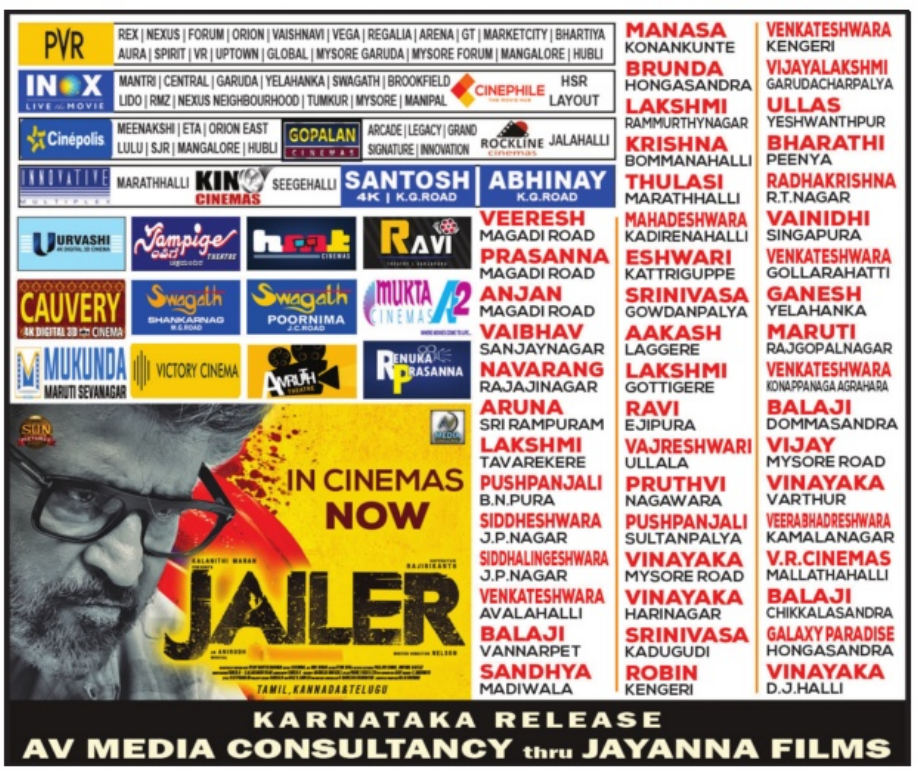
was allegedly groped by a co-passenger on the train. "I felt a male commuter in the crowd try to put his hands around my waist and hold me. But I warned him that I would inform the authorities if he continued with the inappropriate behaviour and he refrained from engaging after," she explained the ordeal. She noted that while procedures to address emergencies like this may have been put in place by the metro, there is little to no awareness provided to the public and suggested that the metro authorities make announcements of the procedure regularly as well as put up signages with relevant instructions.

Tara Krishnaswamy, co-founder of Political Shakti and Citizens for Bengaluru, said that in order to make women feeler safer, emergency buttons inside coaches must be installed and a facility to report sexual harassment to the police from the metro station itself must be made so the women can get off at the earliest and report the incident. She added that clear signage must be put up across stations and coaches warning commuters of sexual harassment being a punishable crime.

Riya (name changed), a regular commuter who travels late at night, confirmed that there is a woman home guard staff present in the ladies coach post 10 pm. "This certainly makes women travelling post 10 pm in the metro feel much safer. However, I have not noticed other security guards patrolling teams during peak hours on running metros," she said. She suggested the BMRCL increase the frequency of trains to reduce the crowd in each train as the current headway is too long a wait.

Metro's average daily ridership has risen in each of the last four months, reaching a record 6.11 lakh in July. Daily ridership is expected to reach 7.5 lakh once the 2.1-km KR Pura-Baiyappanahalli and 1.9-km Kengeri-Challaghatta lines are opened by August-end.





Safety sinks as lake turns into antisocial hub

Area around Hosakerehalli lake being utilised as dumping ground

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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Heaps of unattended mud and construction debris lying around, along with slushy roads, are just a few of the glaring issues following the abrupt halt of the Hosakerehalli Lake rejuvenation work a couple of months ago.

In the absence of vigilance, the area around the water body is now being utilised as a dumping ground for waste and construction debris. Locals allege that the lake area has transformed into a hub for anti-social activities, raising concerns about the safety of residents living around the lake.

"The lake area, featuring a half-constructed retaining wall, has turned into a dump yard with various anti-social activities. The expansive area has multiple hidden spots. People have been observed gathering here for drinking and smoking. This ongoing issue in the neighbourhood has persisted for some time. A couple of days ago, a neighbour attempted to intervene in a fight between two boys under the influence of alcohol, and he ended up getting pepper-sprayed. Even taking a walk in the evening has become risky for residents," expressed a concerned local resident.

Locals have also expressed dissatisfaction with the poor state of the stretch connecting the Kerekodi area to RR Nagar. According to them, the road remains muddy, and bumpy, and turns into a muddy mess after each rainfall.

Half-completed retaining wall on one side of the lake is showing signs of developing cracks

> **The expansive area has multiple hidden spots. People have been observed gathering here for drinking and smoking. Even taking a walk is risky**
>
> - Local resident

"The stretch was never tarred, and no work has taken place since March of this year. This is the only connecting road to RR Nagar. The alternative route is longer, and during emergencies, it becomes challenging. Just last week, I had to take my father to the hospital, and the bumpy ride made him very uncomfortable. While the deputy CM made a surprise visit a few days ago and assured us that the work will be done, nothing has moved on-ground," said Rachna Ravi Kiran, a resident of Hosekerahalli.

Locals have also brought attention to the half-completed retaining wall on one side of the lake, which is showing signs of developing cracks.

"We've noticed cracks emerging in the retaining wall. Heavy-duty vehicles are using the road around the lake. However, the road was not constructed scientifically and it is not equipped to handle such pressure," said Naveen, another resident of the area.

"The Solid Waste Management department of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is having a tough time cleaning up the area of garbage. Although citizens are trying to help them, the issue persists. Loads are being dumped and consist of all kinds of garbage including construction debris. The SWD department cleans it once in a while, but a lot of it remains. Now even camps have started coming up around the lake area," said another resident.

Covid norm breach: Case against CM, DyCM dropped

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to withdraw criminal cases relating to violation of covid-19 guidelines by state Congress and its leaders including, now Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar during the 'Mekedatu padayatra' organised by the party in 2022.

The Congress, then in opposition, had organised the padayatra (foot march), demanding implementation of the Mekedatu project, across the Cauvery river, despite covid restrictions during the time.

"It has been decided to withdraw nine criminal cases booked in various police stations of the state. It is to do with only Mekedatu agitation, violating covid rules and Section 144 and others," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, he said the decision has been taken based on the application of Congress MLA Ashok Pattan, who is also the government's Chief Whip in the Legislative Assembly.

"The cases are related to violation of covid-19 guidelines by Congress party with its state President D K Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah (then Leader of Opposition), D K Suresh (Bengaluru Rural MP) by organising party convention and holding Mekedatu to Bengaluru, based on the complaint filed by Tahsildar Ramanagara, and nine other cases connected with these offences," he added.

The march with the theme 'Namma Neeru, Namma Hakku' (Our water, Our right) that had initially begun at Sangama, the confluence of Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers at Kanakapura in Ramanagara district, on January 9, 2022 was scheduled to conclude at Basavanagudi here on January 19, after spanning a total distance of nearly 139 km.

It was however temporarily halted on January 13, with limited options before the party, amid surging covid-19 cases, government prohibiting movement of people, and the Karnataka High Court's strong observations regarding violation of curbs. Several Congress leaders who had attended the march were also infected by coronavirus.

The party resumed the padayatra in February end and it culminated at the National College Ground at Basavanagudi on March 3. -PTI

KPTCL contract workers begin indefinite strike

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Nearly 2,000 KPTCL contract workers are currently staging an indefinite strike, demanding the conversion of their positions to permanent status and an increase in wages as per the standards for permanent employees.

KPTCL Contract Employees Union has called for this strike, and employees from various districts across Karnataka gathered at Freedom Park today. The employee union highlighted that despite working throughout the pandemic without the option of remote work, approximately 20,000 workers are currently employed under contract terms in KPTCL.

Speaking to Bangalore Mirror, the President of the KPTCL Contract Employees Union said, "To address our demands, we are staging an indefinite strike. We insist that all our job positions be made permanent, and we should be compensated on par with permanent employees. In the interim period of conversion to permanent status, we should be paid equal pay for equal wages."

> **Workers are demanding for permanent employment status and compensated on par with permanent employees**

He further emphasised that KPTCL workers often operate in dangerous environments, and he urged the state government to recognise their challenges. "Workers going to work in the morning are not guaranteed to return in the evening. We don't know what unknown reason might befall these workers that could lead to their fatality," he added.

In addition to these demands, the union also called for KPTCL to directly credit their salaries to their bank accounts, bypassing the involvement of contractors. They also added that contractors take a cut before giving the salaries to the workers.

The union added that discussions with officials regarding compensation in cases of worker fatalities have yielded no results. "Even in instances of death caused by electrocution, we don't get compensation. We even struggle to get compensation to carry the dead bodies. We have run pillar to post to get ambulance fees," he added. The union informed that certain workers have encountered obstacles and threats preventing them from attending the protest.

Karnataka govt approves cyber security policy

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved the cyber security policy aimed at curbing cyber crimes in the state and promoting data privacy. It also gave administrative approval for the Centre of Excellence for Aerospace and Defence at a cost of Rs 391 crore at Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) campus here, for research and studies.

"The cabinet has approved Karnataka Cyber Security Policy 2023-24. The main intention of this policy is to reduce the cyber crime rate in the state which is increasing and create awareness among people about cyber security and data privacy," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said.

Briefing reporters about cabinet decisions, he said, under this policy the state government, local bodies and panchayats have to implement the awareness programmes from time to time, and evaluate them.

"Also to have surveys regarding cyber security and data privacy. New softwares of the state government, online banking and technical education and training programmes in this regard will come under its ambit," he said. —PTI

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CHANGE OF NAME

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WE, SAVITHA K W/o. Arun Kumar R and ARUN KUMAR R S/o. Rafhel, residing at No. 267, near St. Mary's Convent School, Mylasandra (Nirmala Nagar), Bengaluru-560068, declaring that in my daughter LISHA CLEVIN A birth certificate our names are wrongly mentioned as SAVITHA ARUN KUMAR and ARUN KUMAR, but actual names are SAVITHA K and ARUN KUMAR R, vide affidavit dated 03.08.2023, sworn before notary H.H Nagaraj, Bangalore.

I Niranjan Kadiyali Sadananda Sharma S/O, Sadananda Sharma P K R/o #404, Opulence Block, Sainandana Grandeur Apartment, Gottigere Lake Road, Bangalore - 560083 have changed my name to Niranjan Kadiyali Sadananda.

I Atin Misra S/o Anand Kumar Misra aged about 35 years R/At 205, Icon Luxuria, Bilishivale, Dr.SRK Nagar Post, B'luru-560077 have changed my name to Atin Mishra vide affidavit dtd:05/08/2023 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru

I, Niveditha Jagannatha W/o Gowrish Krishna Rai R/o No A208, casagrande lorenza, agrahara badavane, next to brigade bricklane, Bellahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore, 560064, have changed my name to Niveditha J Shetty

WE, Sachin NC and Kruthika R/o 1-2-4 , Chowlur Post, Hindpur Mandal Ananthpur Dist AP have changed our minor daughter name from Saanvi S to Saanvi Diyanshi for all purposes.

I Nayab Zahid Zada Mahammad S/O, Ameer Jan R/o No 7/1 4th Cross 1st Floor Bhuvaneshawari Nagar Sultan Palya Main Road Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Nayab Zahid Zada.

I, Sandeep s/o Gopal Kharvi R/o #4-15 B, Sri Marikambe, Kodi Kanyana, Hosabengre, Pandeshwara, Sasthan Udupi-576226 have Changed My Name Sandeep Kharvi for all Purposes.

I, Vinod Kumar Haldwani S/O, Harpart Singh R/o 452, Mahaveer Rich Apptms. Agb Layout Hasergatta Chikabhanawara Bangalore -90 have changed my name to Vinod Kumar for all purposes.

I Uttamchand s/o Kanji R/o #480 1st Main 3rd Block 3rd Stage Basaveshwaranagar B'luru-560079 have Changed My Name To Ottamchand Maru for all Purposes.

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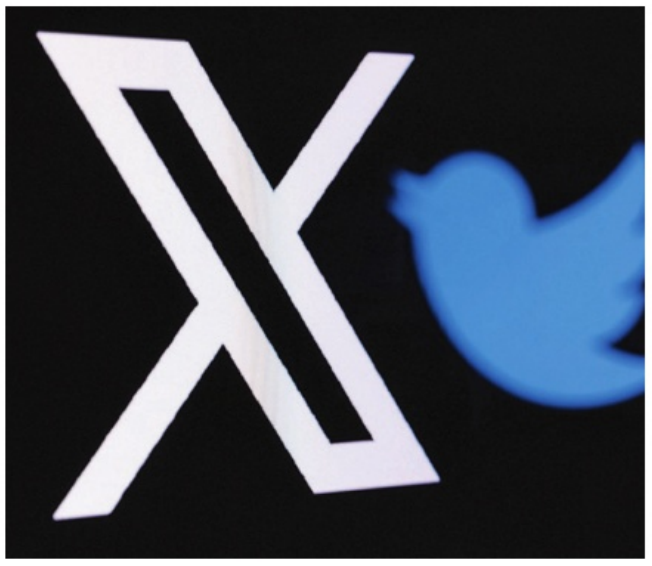
Court stays ₹50 lakh fine on X Corp

Company must deposit half of fine amount in one week, says High Court bench



A division bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed a single judge bench order that had imposed a cost of Rs 50 lakh on X Corp (formerly Twitter) for not complying with IT Ministry orders -- subject to the company depositing 50 per cent of the amount (Rs 25 lakh) within one week.

The deposit is for X Corp to show its bonafides, the court said. The order of the single judge who had directed X Corp to deposit Rs 50 lakh by August 14 will be stayed till the next date of hearing.

"As such, on deposit of Rs 25 lakh, the order of the single judge bench is stayed until the next hearing date," the HC said.

The division bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B Varale and Justice MGS Kamal was hearing a petition by the micro-blogging site against the order of Justice Krishna S Dixit which had dismissed its petition challenging the take-down orders on tweets (posts), URLs and hashtags. The single judge bench had also imposed a cost on the company in its judgment on June 30.

On Thursday, the division bench in its interim order said, "We direct the appellant to deposit Rs 25 lakh within one week in this court." The court however said that deposing the money "may not be treated as acceptance by this court that equity lies in favour of the appellant."

The single judge had held that the company did not comply with the orders of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeiTY) for more than a year and then approached the HC against those orders.

MeiTY had under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act between February 2, 2021 and February 28, 2022 issued 10 Government orders directing it to block 1,474 accounts, 175 Tweets, 256 URLs and one hashtag. X Corp (then Twitter) challenged the orders related to 39 of these URLs.

On Thursday, X Corp was represented by advocate Manu Kulkarni while the Central Government Counsel Kumar M N argued on behalf of MeiTY. The Government counsel argued that the case itself was not maintainable.

> **Deposing the money may not be treated as acceptance that equity lies with appellant** –Court order

However, the division bench pointed out that the single judge bench had upheld the locus standi of X Corp to file the petition challenging the blocking of tweets and handles of its users.

Comparing X Corp to a shop selling various products, the HC observed that it was akin to taking action against the shopkeeper if there were substandard products on sale. After granting the temporary relief in the interim order, the division bench adjourned the hearing of the appeal by two weeks. **PTI**

Probe must: DKS on warpath with contractors

Stiffening his stand on withholding clearance of bills to contractors, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said on Thursday that an investigation will take place before clearing bills of contractors.

Shivakumar told reporters, "The complaints were given by them (BJP) and Kempanna (President of State Contractors' Association). Justice has to be given in on all these complaints. Let them do anything for publicity."

"I know who is calling them to New Delhi and tutoring them by giving statements. I also know who is presenting them before the media. Those behind it are well settled and will talk about it later. The contractors will have to prove their work in the investigation. For those contractors, who had executed the works genuinely, the government will give justice," he said.

> **Shivakumar says contractors will have to prove their work in the investigation**

The rift between the Congress and contractors is escalating day by day. The contractors, who are on the path of war against the government, met former CM BS Yediyurappa on Wednesday and requested him to support them to get pending bills done. The contractors have alleged Shivakumar is demanding 15% cuts in the bills and also complained about this to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot. They also challenged Shivakumar to take a pledge before his family deity over the commission charges. KT Manjunath, the President of BBMP Contractors' Association, said many projects have been taken up and completed, but payments were stopped. **—IANS**

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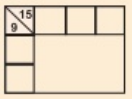
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

Bill was born on an odd 1-digit day in a 2-digit month. The product of the day and month is 60. What is Bill's birthday?

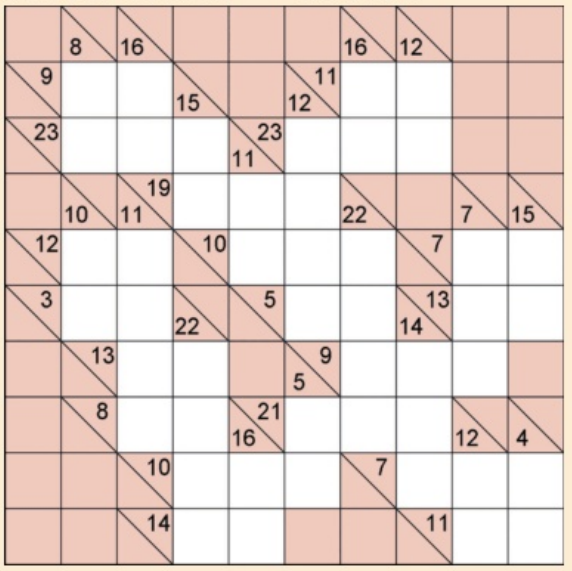
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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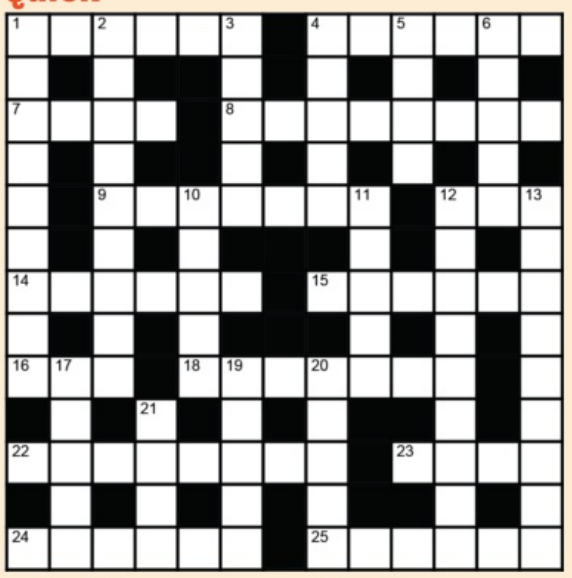


ACROSS

1 Head of a nunnery? (6)
4 Developed into (6)
7 New Zealand parrots (4)
8 Intrude gradually (8)
9 Assassination (7)
12 Milk producer (3)
14 Hypnotic state (6)
15 Victor (6)
16 Bother (3)
18 Junior (7)
22 Chess champion Garry ___ (8)
23 Narrow notch (4)
24 Road used as a detour (6)
25 Knocked out in boxing match (6)

DOWN

1 River that crosses paths with the South Pennar river at Nandi Hills (9)
2 Card gambling game (9)
3 Hard outer covering (5)
4 Breakfast food (5)
5 Large black bird (4)
6 Prefix meaning "combined" or "on a large scale"? (5)
10 Fortunate (5)
11 Norwegian composer (5)
12 Female voice of the lower register (9)
13 Guaranteed; answered for genuineness, etc.? (9)
17 All set (5)
19 Monsters (5)
20 2022 Wimbledon Champion ____ Djokovic (5)
21 Samoan Port (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS U

QA ELS AVZZ, AVZZ LK ELSC GVHF. QA ELS HVK ZLLF ST, ELS HVK JXM ST.

Linemaro

In your smile I see something more beautiful than the stars

Mindchow

A man is never more truthful than when he acknowledges himself a liar

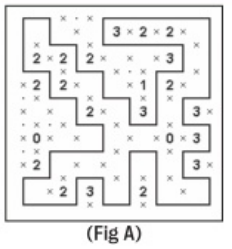
Joke of the day

Why was Hitler hit on the head by a cricket ball? He did nazi the ball

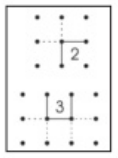
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

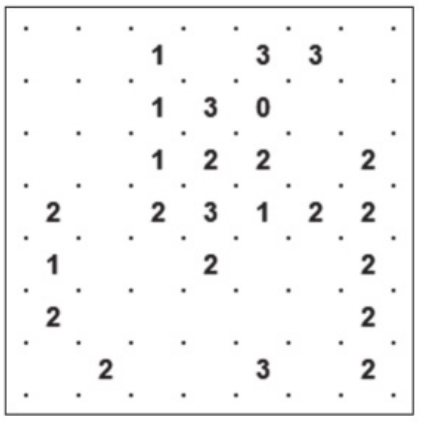


(Fig B) Not Allowed

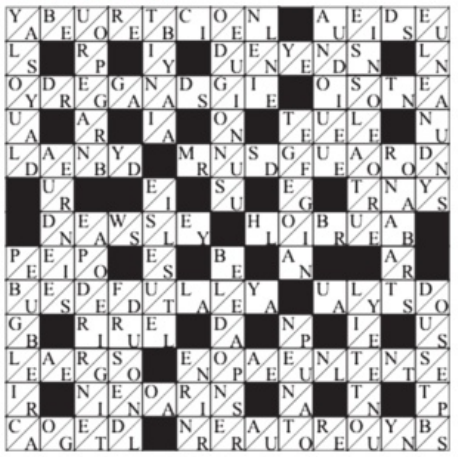
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



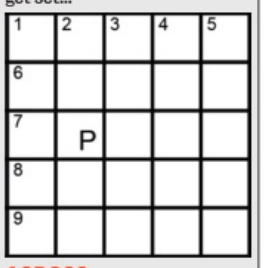
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Ester; 6 Lemna;
7 De Pun; 8 Gamer;
9 Reply

DOWN

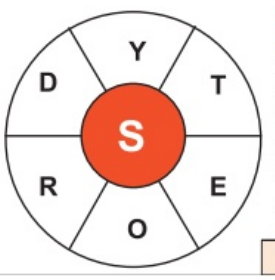
1 Lumps; 2 Plate;
3 Me rye; 4 An erg;
5 E nerd

Mensapuzzle

Which number is the odd one out?

9678 4572 5261 5133 3527 6895 7768

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 12 Good; 14 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7						6	
		4		7		2		
8			1		4			3
	6		4		8		1	
5	9						3	8
	1		3		2		9	
1			7		9			5
		7		2		8		
	4						7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 12

2 3 5 8

Medium = 12

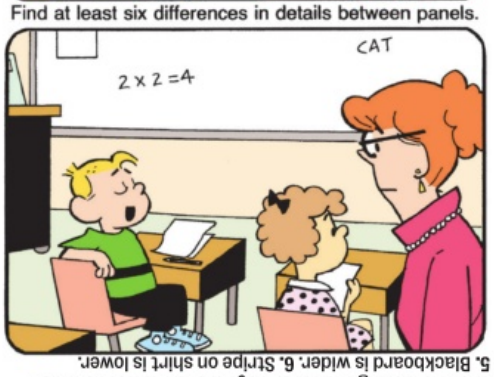
2 5 6 9

Hard = 31

1 6 9 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



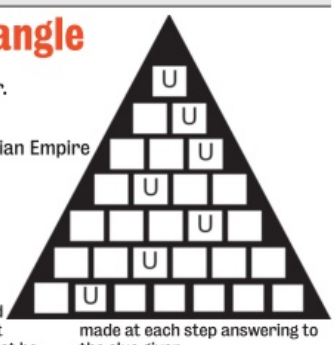
Differences: 1. Desk leg is moved. 2. Paper on desk is longer. 3. Girl is looking the other way. 4. Chair is not as wide. 5. Blackboard is wider. 6. Stripe on shirt is lower.

Riddler

Four persons participate in a tournament. The number on Anthony's jersey is equal to the sum of Emily's and Jason's jersey numbers. Filip's number is equal to the sum of Jason's and Anthony's jersey numbers. Jason's jersey number is two more than Emily's jersey number.

Alpha triangle

1 A type of turn
2 Rugby Union, abbr.
3 French vinyard
4 Junkyard dogs
5 Founder of a Persian Empire
6 Scamper
7 Superficial



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

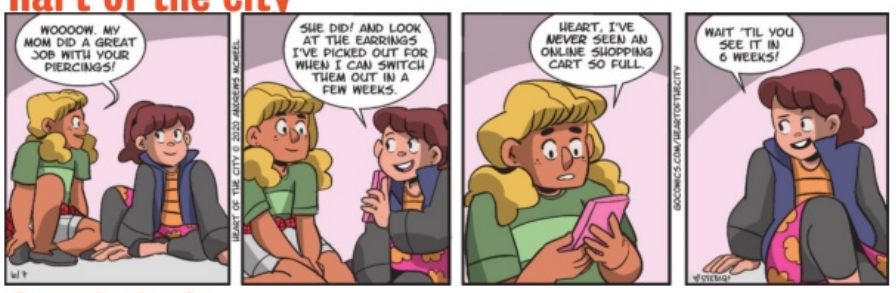
POKEY!
YOU'VE BEEN FOOLING AROUND WITH MY PIPE, HAVEN'T YOU?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
5-24
I CAN TASTE THE PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY!!

Bizarrotrip

Well, you'll just have to smuggle in your own garlic grater.
Wayno & Piraro 6-3-23
©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


WOOOOW. MY MOM DID A GREAT JOB WITH YOUR PIERCINGS!
SHE DID! AND LOOK AT THE EARRINGS I'VE PICKED OUT FOR WHEN I CAN SWITCH THEM OUT IN A FEW WEEKS.
HEART, I'VE NEVER SEEN AN ONLINE SHOPPING CART SO FULL.
WAIT 'TIL YOU SEE IT IN 6 WEEKS!
HEARTOFTHECITY.COM

Crankshaft

HOW COULD YOUR CHECK AMOUNT BE ALMOST A THOUSAND DOLLARS MORE THAN THE INVOICE!!?
THERE'S ONLY ONE LOGICAL EXPLANATION...
SOMEONE AT THE POST OFFICE OPENED THE LETTER AND CHANGED THE CHECK AMOUNT!
5-31
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, situations are now okay. People around you may respond to you now. But you are advised not to take life as a burden. You should try to sustain yourself in unavoidable situations. You may face some difficulties in easy gains. Somehow, blessings from elders may help you come out of this situation. Your confusion in choosing targets may now be resolved

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, tasks may remain incomplete. You may become a victim of mood swings, and your patience may be tested multiple times. Silly mistakes could confuse you when trying to conclude your work. Lovebirds may find themselves confused about their feelings. Having higher expectations may affect your emotional attachment to your spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students may experience a loss of concentration.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, with the help of your subordinate staff, you may be able to complete postponed projects. Your network may receive a boost now, which could help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go for an outing with friends or siblings. Some disputes with neighbours may be resolved now. Students are advised to overcome laziness and carelessness.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may spend money on your family issues, which could affect your financial health. You are advised to avoid spending money on worthless things and to think twice before acting. It is advisable to control your straightforwardness to maintain harmony in your domestic and professional life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is a good day for you. You may have a positive environment around you after hearing some good news from your siblings. Jobseekers may find a good job. Spiritual energy may help you make the right decisions. Your focus towards your goals will be clear now. Students may have a strong focus on their studies.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull and not very healthy. You might find yourself standing at a crossroads. It is advised to follow your intuition before making important decisions. Drive safely and avoid adventure tourism. You may criticize yourself and find it difficult to make significant decisions, which could be due to a lack of self-confidence. This might affect your social image.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today is important in terms of gains. You may achieve results with less effort. Your losses may convert into profits with the help of your intelligence. You may plan to engage in some academic activities. You might consider donating some amount to a religious place or charity, and you may also help a needy person. Investing in intellectual assets could be possible. Students may perform better.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your performance may be very good in terms of your profession. You may have the full support of your boss or seniors, and you are likely to encounter new opportunities. You may even expect to secure a new job. Job seekers may find a suitable job. Singles could find love at their workplace.

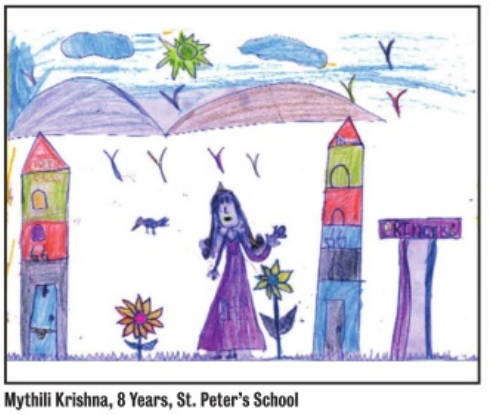
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your destiny may favour you. You can manage things easily, which can boost your confidence. You may plan to visit a spiritual place. You will likely donate some amount to religious activities or a charity. You may expect a short business trip. Blessings from elders may bring peace of mind. Lovebirds may receive help from family members regarding their marriage.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel dull and experience some minor health-related issues that could affect your daily routine. You may explore and analyse yourself to identify your negativities. You might even feel alone in a crowd, causing your focus to waver. In the late evening, with the help of elders, you may overcome this messy situation.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may receive some business orders that could prove profitable in the near future. You may implement new ideas on your work front, and new partnerships may emerge. You may find yourself busy with work, which could lead to mental fatigue, affecting your domestic life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you perform well in your job. Your colleagues may cooperate with you, leading to good job performance. You may be able to finish your postponed projects on time if you don't mind. You may also consider lending money for investment purposes. Job seekers may secure a new job. There is positive news for natives affected by old health issues.

KIDZONE



Mythili Krishna, 8 Years, St. Peter's School

Purvi Desai, 5 Years, Sindhi High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Day 1 3 5 7
Month 10 11 12
5*12=60
December 5

QUOTE UNCODE
If you fall, fall on your back. If you can look up, you can get up.

STRIKE OUT

C	O	E	D	■	N	E	U	T	R	O	N	S	■	■
I	■	N	E	A	R	S	■	N	■	T	■	■	T	■
L	A	G	S	■	E	P	A	U	L	E	T	S	■	■
B	R	U	E	■	A	■	P	■	I	■	■	U	■	■
U	S	E	F	U	L	■	L	Y	■	A	L	T	O	■
P	E	P	S	■	E	■	N	■	■	A	■	■	■	■
■	N	E	W	S	■	H	O	R	E	B	■	■	■	■
R	■	■	I	■	S	■	G	■	T	A	S	■	■	■
D	E	N	Y	■	M	U	D	G	U	A	R	D	■	■
U	■	A	■	O	■	E	■	L	■	■	■	N	■	■
O	R	G	A	N	D	I	E	■	I	O	N	A	■	■
A	B	O	R	T	I	O	N	■	A	I	D	E	■	■

FAST FIVE

S	T	E	R	E
L	E	M	A	N
M	A	R	G	E
U	P	E	N	D
P	L	Y	E	R

BULL'S EYE
DESTROY, dose, oyster, rest, rose, rosy, sore, sort, sorted, store, storey, story, strode

QUICK

B	Y	P	A	S	S	■	K	A	Y	O	E	D	■	■
■	D	■	I	■	E	■	A	■	T	■	■	E	■	■
K	A	S	P	A	R	O	V	■	S	L	O	T	■	■
■	E	■	A	■	G	■	O	■	■	A	■	N	■	■
I	R	K	■	Y	O	U	N	G	E	R	■	A	■	■
■	■	C	■	K	■	E	■	■	T	■	■	R	■	■
T	R	A	N	C	E	■	W	I	N	N	E	R	■	■
■	J	■	U	■	■	R	■	O	■	■	■	A	■	■
K	I	L	L	I	N	G	■	C	O	W	■	■	■	■
■	C	■	L	■	O	■	W	■	■	R	■	■	■	■
K	E	A	S	■	E	N	C	R	O	A	C	H	■	■
R	■	L	■	H	■	A	■	R	■	A	■	■	■	■
A	B	E	S	S	■	B	E	C	A	M	E	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
352: in the others the sum of the first two numbers is equal to the sum of the second two numbers, for example 5+2 = 6+1

RIDDLER
Jason = Emily + 2.
Anthony = Emily and Jason = 2 (Emily) + 2.
Flip = Jason and Anthony = 3 (Emily) + 4. Emily < Jason < Anthony < Flip

SUDOKU

3	7	1	2	8	5	9	6	4
6	5	4	9	7	3	2	8	1
8	2	9	1	6	4	7	5	3
7	6	3	4	9	8	5	1	2
5	9	2	6	1	7	4	3	8
4	1	8	3	5	2	6	9	7
1	8	6	7	4	9	3	2	5
9	3	7	5	2	1	8	4	6
2	4	5	8	3	6	1	7	9

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, RU, CrU, CUrS, CUrSuS, CUrSory.

GO FIGURE
5 – 3 + 8 + 2 = 12
Medium
9 + 2 + 6 – 5 = 12
Hard
4 x 9 – 6 + 1 = 31
Easy

LOOP

KAKURO

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DOSE OF DECEMBER

Rashmika reveals her lucky connection with the month

National Crush Rashmika Mandanna has a fortunate connection with the month of December, with as many as four films, including her debut with the Kannada film, Kirik Party, Pushpa: The Rise, Chamak and Anjani Putra. Now, the actress is set to come back with Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'Animal'.

Talking about the same, the actress said: "The month of December has always been a lucky month for me. Starting from my debut with Kirik Party to Pushpa, Chamak, Anjani Putra, I have received immense love for all my movies that released in the month. Animal is going to be my 5th film that's now releasing in December, and I'm really thrilled about it."

Spilling beans about her character in 'Animal', she said: "I'm eagerly waiting to see what audiences have to say about the movie and the character I'm essaying. It's a very different role for me, something I'd have never imagined myself doing before. So I am very excited to see what fans and critics have to say!"

The stars align in December for Rashmika, who experienced her debut film 'Kitty Party' hitting theaters on the 31, followed by the game-changing 'Pushpa' on December 17.

Rashmika is all set to resume the 2nd schedule of the much awaited 'Pushpa: The Rule' this month. She also has 'Rainbow' and 'Animal' set to hit the theatres soon. Rashmika has worked in Telugu and Kannada films in addition to Tamil and Hindi films.

— IANS

Looking beyond

Actor David Harbour, who is well known for his role as police officer Jim Hopper in 'Stranger Things', has said that he is already looking to the future after completing his time in the 'Upside Down'.

According to Deadline, in an interview, the 48-year old actor said: "The first year of 'Stranger Things', I remember having a discussion with a publicist and her saying, 'Maybe you don't want to be associated with the show so much,' and I was like, 'Why? I love this show. I love the character. And I do love the show. But I don't want to be just that character. I don't want to be just that guy."

David has been in Hollywood for long, but never became a big name until he starred in the sci-fi horror series which suddenly skyrocketed his reputation, and gave him immense fame and success. Though late in his career, 'Stranger Things' earned him two Emmy Awards nominations, a Golden Globe nod and a win at the Critics Choice Television Award.

— IANS

Lots of action and some laughs too

JAILER

3 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Nelson Dilipkumar
- **ACTORS** Rajnikanth, Ramyakrishnan, Shivarajkumar, Mohanlal, Tamannaah Bhatia
- **Duration** 165 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

This film is a mix of comedy, emotion, and action. Director Nelson Dilipkumar has handled the megaphone with aplomb. Though the movie has an ensemble cast, the director has succeeded in utilising the star cast aptly to a large extent.

The movie is about Tiger Muthuvel Pandiyan (Rajinikanth), a retired jailer, who is happily spending leisure time helping his grandson Rithvik (Shakti Rithvik) to make reels though the latter has less than 100 subscribers, going to market for vegetables, and polishing shoes of his grandson and son Arjun (Vasanth Ravi), a police officer, and trying to satiate his hunger with whatever food is served on the dining table.

A murder takes place at a temple in Arakonam and police find an ancient statue missing from the temple. Arjun takes up the investigation of murder and missing statue. He tries to nab Varma (Vinayakan), a smuggler but ends up missing. Black sheep among police try to project it as a suicide.

Tiger Muthuvel Pandiyan decides to teach a lesson to Varma. Will Tiger Muthuvel Pandiyan succeed in his mission or not is what Jailer is all about.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Rajinikanth walks away with all honours for his sterling performance, especially in the climax scene. His dialogue delivery, gestures, and body language are inimitable. Guest appearances by Jackie Shroff, Dr Shivarajkumar, Mohanlal, Sunil, Tamannaah Bhatia add value to the movie.

The scenes between Rajinikanth and Shakthi Rithvik, who plays a budding YouTuber, are hilarious. The scenes between Rajinikanth and Yogi Babu will also tickle audiences' funny bones. Rajinikanth and Ramya Krishnan share the screen after a gap of over two decades. But, Ramya has nothing to do in this movie except appearing in a few scenes. Vasanth Ravi looks stoic throughout and Vinayakan is convincing as a vicious smuggler. Music, especially the background score, by Anirudh Ravichander aka Anirudh is very good.

The drawbacks of the movie are it has too many actors. The director should have trimmed the scenes in which Sunil and Tamannaah appear. The post-intermission is a little bit of a drag. The movie has too many gory scenes and most of them lack logic.

All in all, it is worth a watch for those who want an entertainer to pass their time.

—Y Maheswara Reddy